"4-H in West Virginia is people oriented. The program wants to develop well-rounded people. 4-H helped me discover my purpose in life."

- 4-H All Star Jerry Grady --

T oday, there are 1,300 4-H club programs in West Virginia. These clubs, found in every county in the Mountain State, boast an active membership of 44,000 youth, with 7,600 adult volunteers serving as club leaders and mentors. 4-H youth development involves after-school programs, school-enrichment activities, international programs, summer learning programs, camping and cooperation with schools and communities. The clubs, although diverse in their activities, all follow the fourfold 4-H program.

The 4-H program is based on the fourfold development of youth: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. These words are for members and volunteers to communicate their devotion to learning and the development of young citizens.

The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover, with kelly green leaves and white H's inside. The white represents purity. The green conveys nature's most common color and is symbolic of youth, life and growth.

Contact information: The 4-H program is sponsored by the West Virginia University Extension Service (WVU-ES), which has an office in each of the state's 55 counties. To learn about local 4-H activities, contact your county's WVU Extension office. Information about 4-H and other Extension Service programs is also available by visiting the Extension's Web page at http://www.wvu.edu/~exten/.